**THE SKULL SINUSES AND MASTOIDS.** A handbook of Roentgen diagnosis by Barton R. Young, M.D., professor of radiology, Temple University Medical School. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1948. $6.50.

This is perhaps the best of the handbooks of roentgen diagnosis yet issued by the Yearbook Publishers. The illustrations are excellent. The text is sound and the propinquity of text and figure leaves nothing to be desired.

As in all handbooks, there are certain minor omissions, the importance of which is a matter of individual opinion. Under "congenital variations and disorders of the skull," fairly prominent place is given to such lesions as encephalocele and dermoid cyst which are comparative rarities, while mention is not made of the small cleft in the posterior portion of the parietal bone (which is so neatly illustrated in Sobotta's anatomy text) and which is not infrequently mistaken for fracture in roentgenograms of infants' skulls.

Some readers will question the wisdom of the use of the term "sinus*itis*" in the interpretation of roentgenograms of the nasal accessory sinuses. The radiologist can diagnose mucosal swelling or fluid, but cannot always distinguish between simple allergic swelling and true inflammatory disease.

One particularly satisfactory part of the book is the clear delineation of the technique used in various projections. This one feature alone makes the book valuable to every radiologist, as well as to most students and practitioners who have occasion to see roentgenograms of the skull.

**VASCULAR DISEASES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE.** By Irving Sherwood Wright, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Cornell University Medical College; The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1948. $7.50.

Without hesitation, this reviewer can state that Dr. Wright has performed an outstanding service in writing this monograph on vascular disease. The author has had wide personal experience in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with vascular conditions. In addition he has for many years been actively engaged in clinical research in the vascular field and has made numerous significant contributions. Many of these original observations are contained in this work. In this book, he has correlated the clinical findings with the underlying physiological and pathological processes. Furthermore, Dr. Wright has a wide background in general medicine, which enables him to evaluate vascular conditions in relation to the patient as an individual in modern society. Again and again he stresses the importance of "reviewing the patient as a whole rather than concentrating exclusively on the history and site of injury."

The first chapter is devoted to a classification of vascular diseases. The seven pages accorded to this subject indicate the variety of conditions embraced by this book and the importance of this subject in the medical curriculum. Then follows a splendid chapter on methods used in the study of the patient. The author emphasizes the use of simple clinical methods but amplifies their use with an excellent description of more complicated diagnostic procedures. With a nice appreciation of the relative importance of various clinical conditions, Dr. Wright then takes up obliterative vascular disease. The chapters on Arteriosclerosis and Buerger's Disease are outstanding. Details of treatment are excellently evaluated. The less common vascular diseases are briefly but clearly described, with illustrative case reports and good bibliographies at the end of each chapter. Diseases of the veins, thrombophlebitis, pulmonary embolism, and the technique of anticoagulant therapy are well described. Surgical procedures of use in the treatment of vascular disorders are briefly discussed in appropriate sections.

The book is nicely made up and bound, with liberal use of illustrations. The only adverse criticism is possibly the poor reproduction of certain x-ray films. The diagrams of blood vessels, both arteries and veins, although illustrative, are too complicated for clarity. There is an excellent index which permits the volume to be used easily for reference.

Above all, Dr. Wright has produced a readable book. Throughout, he has used a light touch; for instance, when he says, "to give a prognosis in any case of active thrombophlebitis is hazardous—especially to the reputation of a physician prone to this form of mental gambling." But he does not hesitate to stand firm on principles. For instance, in speaking of the use of anticoagulants in the prevention of thrombosis encountered in patients with polycythemia, he states: "In some, anticoagulant treatment was exceedingly difficult. However, because it may be life-saving, the risks must be taken and the physician should be willing to assume the responsibility in order to preserve the patient's health and even his life."

Dr. Wright's monograph is a classic. What Kanavel did for surgery of the hand and Sir Thomas Lewis did for our understanding of heart disease, Wright has done for vascular diseases. This book is recommended without reservation and alike to medical students, to those interested in circulatory disorders, and to all physicians.

**LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF PROTOZOAN DISEASES.** By Charles Franklin Craig, M.D., M.A., Colonel, United States Army Medical Corps (retired), D.S.M. Emeritus professor of tropical medicine, Medical School, Tulane University. Second edition, 56 illustrations and 7 colored plates. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1948.

Colonel Craig's Laboratory Diagnosis of Protozoan Diseases now appears in a second edition made necessary by the additional data documented since 1942 and by exhaustion of the first edition. The new edition is enlarged by 35 pages, two illustrations, and three colored plates. It thoroughly reviews advances of the last six years and retains the author's masterly and highly authoritative judgments on practical methods of diagnosis. It includes detailed descriptions in terms of medical use of amebas and flagellates, leishmanias, trypanosomes, coccidias, malarial plasmodia and balantidium.

It is distinctly supererogatory to criticize details in a text such as this. A few points only are deserving even of mention and these in no wise detract from the excellent quality of the book. In the diagnosis of amebiasis there are some workers who do not believe that the motile trophozoite (unstained) can be safely identified in the average case by the average technician or physician. There is a difference of opinion as to the value of learning the detailed morphology of intestinal protozoa other than *E. histolytica.* This applies very strongly to the effort to teach such detailed morphology to medical students and physicians. Under the diagnosis of kala azar by gland puncture, it is not noted that superficial gland enlargements are common in patients in North China and are apt to be absent in other geographic areas. The work on pre- or exo-erythrocytic forms of malarial plasmodia, especially that during the last two years, might receive more intensive description; and the practical diagnostic importance of examination of living (unstained) plasmodia is perhaps exaggerated.

One of the most valuable features is the Critique of Diagnostic Methods in each section. This puts at the reader's disposal the ripe judgment of the author on the selection and interpretation of methods. These sections are characterized by balance, restraint, undeviating adherence to practicality and they summarize the subject superbly.

The volume itself has the advantage, particularly for a laboratory manual, of lying flat when opened. The typography and proofreading are in keeping with the standards of perfection that we have come to associate with all of the author's publications. The indexing is fully adequate and accurate. The author can be congratulated on this thoroughly excellent text. It is a "must" for every laboratory of clinical medicine, either private or public.